

# Claims

[c1] What is claimed is:

1. An interlocking device for rectangular containers, such as metal ammunition containers and the like, each of said containers having a top lid, a bottom, a front side, a back side and two lateral sides, wherein said interlocking device comprises:

a substantially flat plate substantially coextensive with the top lid of one of said containers and having a front edge, a rear edge and two lateral edges;

a plurality of locking tabs to demountably engage the top lid of one of said rectangular containers, said locking tabs depending from said flat plate and integrally formed with said flat plate;

a plurality of positioning tabs to positionally engage the bottom of another container, said positioning tabs being integrally formed with said flat plate and rising above it;

a plurality of interconnection mechanisms, located along each edge of said flat plate and integrally formed therewith, such that the at least one interlocking mechanisms on the front and rear edges of said flat plate are of opposite interlocking design and the at least one locking mechanism on the front edge of one device will de-

mountably interlock with the at least one locking mechanism on the rear edge of another device, and the at least one interlocking mechanism on each lateral side edge of said flat plate are of opposite interlocking design and the at least one locking mechanism on one lateral edge of one device will demountably interlock with the at least one interlocking mechanism on the opposite side of another device.

- [c2] 2.The interlocking device of claim 1 wherein the flat plate is constructed of metal.
- [c3] 3.The interlocking device of claim 2 wherein the metal is vanadium steel.
- [c4] 4.The interlocking device of claim 2 wherein the metal is low-carbon steel.
- [c5] 5.The interlocking device of claim 2 wherein the metal is spring steel.
- [c6] 6.The interlocking device of claim 1 wherein the flat plate is formed of an organic polymeric material.
- [c7] 7.The interlocking device of claim 1 wherein said locking tabs are located on the lateral edges of said flat plate.
- [c8] 8.The interlocking device of claim 7 wherein said device further comprises a plurality of locator tabs to position-

ally engage the top of said container, said locator tabs being integrally formed with said flat plate and depending therefrom.

- [c9] 9. The interlocking device of claim 8 wherein said locator tabs are located on the front and rear edges of said flat plate.
- [c10] 10. The interlocking device of claim 1 wherein the interlocking design of said locking mechanisms are of male-female design.
- [c11] 11. The interlocking device of claim 1 wherein said positioning tabs have sufficient structural strength to aid an attached container's survival in drop tests.
- [c12] 12. The interlocking device of claim 1 wherein said flat plate is further provided with cut-away sections to permit positioning upon to top lid of a container, or access to container elements.